

**Morgan's Spring Area Properties**  
**Spring Dale**  
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**1738** – Richard Morgan, a Welsh immigrant living in New Jersey, purchased 242 acres of the 442-acre grant land of John Welton (also Welsh) by Lease and Release for £70 (Orange Co. DB 2, p. 413). This was part of the 40,000-acre Vanmeter grant sold to Jost Hite just a few years earlier.

Beginning at Shepherd's SW corner [I think this may be the SE corner of Thomas Shepherd's 222-acre tract that Shepherdstown sits on – on the original grant survey this point was described as "by a Meadow of the Falling Spring Run" (GB 15, p. 315)], then running N 70° W 180 poles "to his corner," then S 30° W 66 poles "to a Hickory on a Hill Side," then S 56° W 40 poles, then S 18° E 150 poles "Cross the Intire Tract," then N 72° E 212 poles "to a Duble White Oak on a Hill," then N 14° E 150 poles to the beginning.

This appears to be most of the tract that became the Morgan's Spring/Falling Spring farm. However, it appears to include a chunk of land on the east side that will later be part of Spring Dale.

"Thomas Shepherd petitioned the Orange County, Virginia Court about this time, requesting to be discharged as "Constable Sherundo" as soon as Richard Morgan was sworn in his place (O'Dell 1995); in October Shepherd was also paid a bounty of 14 shillings for a wolf's head by certificate of Richard Morgan (FC VA Court Journal, in Smyth 1909)." (Everson, <http://training.fws.gov/history/PropertyHistory/historyb.html>)

Here is what is written in the Morgan's Grove District NR:

"Maps dated 1736 to 1755, show a route of the pre-revolutionary wagon road between Winchester and Philadelphia. This was the route used earlier by Indians and early pioneers who settled the valley. Morgan's land was bisected by this road and he built a stone house (Old Stone House) in 1734, a distance off the road on high ground above the gushing springs he called Falling Springs. The limestone rubble house has a single gabled dormer. Nearby stands a stone springhouse from this period. Eleven years later in 1745, Richard Morgan built a new house which was one story in height."

The attached genealogy states that Richard's youngest son Abel was born in 1755 in New Jersey. Perhaps Richard's family did not move to Virginia until after 1755?

(see attached pdf file "Descendants of Richard Morgan")

**1752** – William Morgan, oldest son of Richard Morgan, got a Fairfax grant for 305 acres adjoining Robert Buckles [later Rose Hill] and Richard Morgan's Welton grant-land to the north and other Morgan grant lands.

William Morgan was born ca.1713 (in New Jersey, see genealogy) and married Druscilla Swearingen, who was born ca.1736 probably in Maryland. Dan Everson notes the Swearingen's probably moved to Virginia in the 1740s. The Swearingen ferry was operating by 1755, about the time that Druscilla was reaching marrying age. Attached genealogy says their first son George was born ca.1752 and second son Abraham was born October 2, 1760.

**1763** – Richard Morgan died; his will was recorded in Frederick County, Virginia. He devised to his oldest son William, in addition to the 400 acres on Potomac River east of Shepherdstown “for the use of his three eldest sons, Ralph, George, Abraham,” Richard also gave William “three Acres of the upper end of my Meadows Joining to the twelve Acres he had of me heretofore.” (FC WB 3, p. 159 on Frederick Co. RootsWeb page)

**This seems to imply that the stone Spring Dale house was already in place as it appears to be located on a piece of Richard Morgan's acreage (purchased from John Welton) just north of William Morgan's 1752 grant land.**

Here is what the Morgan's Grove District NR says: “His [Richard Morgan] eldest son, William, built a home nearby in 1760 called Springdale as he helped his father farm the family land which had pastures and crop land.”

Richard Morgan gave his youngest son Abel the “home plantation.” Where was the Richard Morgan home plantation? Morgan's Spring? Rosebrake?

Daughter Mary was already married to Thomas Swearingen Jr. – they owned the 210-acre Richard Morgan grant land on Terrapin Neck.

**1784** – Berkeley County Personal Property tax (John Kearsley's List) listed Col. William Morgan with 3 white titheables, 2 slaves, 10 horses, and 17 cattle. Abel Morgan was listed with 1 white titheable, no slaves, 6 horses, and 7 cattle.

John Kearsley's List also included James Glenn, the Hendricks', Lafferty, Lucas', and Osbourne's so this appears to be the list that covered the Ridge Road neighborhood.

**1788** – Col. William Morgan died. By then he was living in Mecklenburg (Shepherdstown). His will devised “to my Son Abraham Morgan One hundred and fifty acres of Land where he now lives to begin at the great road Joining Mrs. Bedinger and run with the road to the Lane that goes to George Morgans then run with that Lane forty poles then leaving the lane and run parallel with the great road so far as to make the one

hundred and fifty Acres to run with a Square line across to west line which said Land and improvements I leave to the said Abraham.” (BC WB 2, p. 5)

After doling out 100-200 acres to each of his seven children (all but one adults), none of the land devised appeared to include the colonel’s old home farm (Spring Dale). Possibly part of this land was under lease in 1788. The will concluded: “As there will be a remainder of land not already willed it is my will that when the time is out that it is leased for, that it is to be sold to the highest bidder...” This appears to have occurred in 1802 (see below).

**1798** – Berkeley County House & Slave Tax listed various Morgan country properties:

Abraham (son of Col. William):

1 house in the country, District 1, occupied by Self, \$1,050 [Spring Dale?]

Daniel (prob. son of Abel):

1 house in the country, District 2, occupied by Self, \$735 [Rosebrake? Or Morgan’s Spring?]

Rawleigh (son of Col. William):

1 house in the country, District 3, occupied by Self, \$210

1 house in the country, District 3, occupied by Eversole, \$131.25

1 house in the country, District 3, occupied by Self, \$420

Richard (poss. son of Jacob):

1 house in the country, District 1, occupied by Self, \$525

William (poss. son of Isaac):

1 house in the country, District 1, occupied by Self, \$131.25

1 house in the country, District 3, occupied by Self, \$210

**1802** – Rawleigh Morgan paid £1,000 to his father’s executors for the 70 acres “along the road” adjoining William Buckles, John Marks, and Daniel Morgan (JC DB 1, p. 279). On the same day he then sold the 70-acre tract to his brother Abraham for £1,000 (JC DB 1, p. 325).

Daniel Morgan, probably the son of Abel Morgan (not Richard as the NR states) who inherited the Richard Morgan home plantation (1763), was apparently living in the old Morgan home later known as Rosebrake (also known as Poplar Grove), significantly altered by Daniel ca.1820 with a brick wing and later by Caroline Bedinger in 1859 (Morgan’s Grove District NR). Or was he living in Morgan’s Spring?

This seems to place the location of the 70 acres as mostly likely that of the Spring Dale tract. Given the £1,000 price tag it likely had the stone house

on it. The 1798 tax seems to indicate that Abraham was already living on the property and paying taxes on the house.

**1810** – Abraham Morgan sold the combined parcels as one tract of 226 acres to Jacob Morgan for \$8,000 “(at present) of Jefferson County” (JC DB 6, p. 55).

The acreage was described in the deed as part of original tract held by William Morgan, “which said tract of land is composed of two several parcels or tracts, one of which was devised to the said Abraham Morgan by his father William Morgan decd by his last will...and the other of which said parcels or tracts is the same which was conveyed to said Abraham Morgan by Rawleigh Morgan... 15 June 1802.”

**1813** – Jacob and Ann Morgan of Alexandria and the District of Columbia sold the now 218-acre farm to Conrad Licklider for \$11,911.72 (JC DB 7, p. 646).

**1815** – “Coonrad Litchlither” was assessed for a house valued at \$1,200 over the \$500 minimum or \$1,700 total value. This was comparable to the house assessments for Daniel Buckles (\$1,600 total – *Rose Hill*), Thomas Lafferty (\$2,000 total - *Landsdale*), Edward Lucas (\$2,000 total - *Elmwood*), and Robert Lucas (\$1,600 total – *Cold Spring*).

**1846** – Licklider’s will specified that his property be sold. In April John H. McEndree purchased the now 216-acre Spring Dale for \$8,672.50 (JC DB 28, p. 106).

**1859** – McEndree sold Spring Dale to Dr. Isaac S. Tanner for \$11,924.68 (JC DB 38, p. 275).

Imogene Tanner married Dr. George W. Banks. She apparently inherited the farm.

**1931** – Imogene Tanner Banks died and left “my ‘Spring Dale’ Farm” to her son Dr. Horace McMurrin Banks (JC WB F, p. 216).

She mentioned that one of her lots in Shepherdstown was her “residence property” so it is likely that Horace Banks already occupied the Spring Dale Farm.

Attachments:

-Genealogy pdf file

-1859 S. Howell Brown map

-1925 Jefferson Co. map